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STREET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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A N N U A L R E P O R T

P U B L I C H E A L T H .

FOR THE YEAR

1944.



J.H.C.Eglinton,  
Medical Officer of Health.

R.W.Herring,  
Sanitary Inspector.



To: THE CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS of the STREET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report for the year 1944.

This is a report prepared on the lines of that for 1943 as indicated in Circular 10/44, dated 15th February, 1944, and instructed in Circular 49/45, Ministry of Health, with some additional data.

#### VITAL AND OTHER STATISTICS.

The number of Births, including 5 illegitimate Births, was....99,  
giving a Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated civilian  
population of.....19.02

the Birth Rate for ENGLAND and WALES being.....17.6

The number of Deaths was.....52,  
giving a Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated civilian  
population of..... 9.90

the Death Rate for ENGLAND and WALES being.....11.6

The number of Deaths of Infants under one year was..... 2,  
giving an Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 live births of.....20.2

the Infant Mortality Rate for ENGLAND and WALES being.....46.0

Deaths from Puerperal Fever or other Puerperal Causes..... 0  
the Rate per 1000 total births for ENGLAND and WALES being.....10.34

Deaths from Tuberculosis....Pulmonary, 1 -- Non Pulmonary, 0.

#### NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Pneumonia 2, Diphtheria 4, (2 of which were carriers).

Measles 12, Scarlet Fever 21, Whooping Cough 79.

It may be noted here that 15 cases of Scarlet Fever, and the 4 cases of Diphtheria were sent to the Isolation Hospital at Shepton Mallet.

No cases of Puerperal Fever or Puerperal Pyrexia were notified.

#### NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS.

PULMONARY 3,


NON PULMONARY 2.

Diphtheria Immunisation. By the end of the year approximately 75% of children under 5, and 85% of children 5-15 years of age had been immunised.

Tuberculosis number of cases on register December 31st, 1944,

PULMONARY 14,

NON PULMONARY 8.



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## CHILD WELFARE and MATERNITY.

The Child Welfare Association and the Nursing Association have again carried out important work with efficiency and enthusiasm and continue to be of the greatest value to the community in general and the mothers in particular.

The Infant Welfare Clinic was held every Wednesday a doctor attending alternate Wednesdays.

The Centre continued to help to administer the Government Scheme whereby expectant mothers could obtain vitamin capsules and the mothers and children procure cod liver oil, orange juice, &c &c.

The importance of Diphtheria Prophylaxis has especially been stressed and sessions for the immunisation of the children have been arranged by the County Medical Officer of Health, the County Council being the responsible authority.

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## WATER, HOUSING, etc.

The Sanitary Officer reports:-

### WATER.

(i) (a) quality: The quarterly bacteriological examinations have shown a satisfactory water and samples from source reservoirs and draw-off points within the district have been covered by examinations.

(b) quantity: Pumping from our deep well source was resorted to during four months of the year when gravity yields were as follows:-

April.	298,000 G.P.D.
June.	257,000 "
August.	120,000 "
October.	185,000 "

Gravity yields for remaining months varied from 4,000,000 gallons per day in December to 450,000 in July. Consumption was greatly reduced from 350 to 280,000 gallons per day when military camps were vacated in November and "A" Factory closed down.

(ii) Since 7th November a chloramine process of water sterilisation at our gravity source has functioned and the dosage rate determined by chemical analysis. Straight chlorination can be used for the pump supply in addition to the above.

Orthotolidine testing apparatus is being used to check chlorine residuals.

(iii) Due to hardness water has no plumbo-solvent action. Total hardness 25.5 degrees (P.3.5 degrees and T.25 degrees).

(iv) action in respect of any form of contamination;  
See (ii)

(v) particulars of the proportion of dwelling houses and the proportion of the population supplied from public water mains (a) direct to the houses, (b) by means of stand-pipes.

Of 1424 dwelling houses (a) direct 1414 (b) stand-pipe 6 (c) not supplied 4.

### NEW WORKS.

Replacement of 3" rising main from Low to High Level Reservoir in 6" Asbestos and installation of new pumping unit capable of raising 100 gallons per minute.



## SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

No change has been effected during the year, but dredging works by mechanical means on main carrier, have been agreed to and work actually carried out in early part of 1945.

## HOUSING.

During evacuation temporary over-crowding has in a few cases been unavoidable. At the moment over 150 applications for Council houses have been received.

The Council has employed Architect, and schemes are going forward for the purchase, and erection on sites within the town, dwelling houses numbering 70-80 in the first year, and consideration is being given to the erection of a further number which will afford accommodation for a total of 250 families in the next five year period.

Negotiations are taking place for the purchase of land, and with one exception, sewers, water supply, etc. are within close proximity of the proposed development areas.

## MILK.

Inspections have been carried out, the maximum number of samples collected and submitted to the County Pathologist for chemical and bacteriological examinations, recommendations (within the jurisdiction of the Urban District) made with regard to unsatisfactory samples, and general advice given when necessary. The importance of a clean milk supply has continually been stressed and all points appertaining to same have been fully considered by the Health Committee.

## MATTERS ARISING FROM THE WAR.

### GRANGE SICK BAY. (Special Report attached).

The sick bay has once again proved to be a great asset to the district cases being admitted which come within the scope of its amenities.

From the attached report it will be noted that from the Urban District 73 cases were admitted the which included a variety of conditions, a number occurring in elderly people. These cases of illness or emergency or convalescence from operation, etc. proved difficult to nurse at home from causes such as lack of domestic help, abnormal crowding in War time, illness amongst the household, &c &c. It may therefore be reasonably deduced that the importance and value of the sick bay to the immediate area in particular, is increasing every year, and the necessity for its continuing, possibly in some modified form, is becoming more evident,

## HOSTELS.

The Hostels, three in number, Viz. the Orchard, Ashcroft and Chalot, have served a very useful purpose, and been of assistance in the Evacuation Scheme.

## NON RESIDENTIAL NURSERY.

There is a non residential nursery in Street associated with Hindhays School and its premises. Children 0-5 years of age are admitted, the County Council being the responsible Authority.

## POPULATION, EVACUATION.

The amenities and services of the Urban District have often been subjected to considerable strain and stress. The total civilian population though subject to fluctuation due to enemy air attacks on Southern England, reached almost 6000 compared with maximum population of approximately 7000 in the previous year. This abnormal population was accounted for by transferred workers principally from Whitehead's Torpedo Works, Weymouth, official and unofficial evacuees including





children from the South East Essex Technical College, Holy Child (Roman Catholic) School, London, etc. No account has been taken of military personnel stationed in Street at times amounting to about 1800 in the three Camps. In my opinion the kindly way the people of Street shared their homes with the transferred workers and their families, and cared for the evacuated school children, contributed in no small measure to the maintenance of the good health of the Urban District.

#### VENEREAL DISEASE, BLOOD TRANSFUSION, INFESTATION, PROPAGANDA.

The importance of the prevention of Venereal Disease has been brought to the notice of the public during the year. A public meeting was arranged on behalf of and with the support of the Urban District Council, when a film was shown on this subject, together with films on Blood Transfusion, Infestation, Scabies, Catering, etc. Brigadier General L.C.H. Whitby, Director of the Blood Transfusion Service, was good enough to attend and address the meeting.

A large number of people have attended the sessions for the collection of blood for transfusion purposes, and these donors have earned the approbation of Brigadier Whitby.

The incidence of Venereal Disease in the Urban District has not appreciably increased during the year.

The incidence of Scabies has been very substantially decreased. Only twelve cases, one adult and eleven children were admitted to the sick bay from the Urban District. Occasion did not arise whereby it became necessary to invoke the powers conferred on Local Authorities under the Scabies Order.

#### GENERAL COMMENTS.

One notes that the Infant Mortality Rate is lower than the Rate for last year and considerably lower than the Rate for England and Wales. The Infant Mortality Rate is always regarded as a good index of social conditions generally, and of those which affect children, in particular.

There was an epidemic of Whooping Cough, but in general the health of the community was surprisingly good in spite of the increasing physical and nervous strain of the War, a strain which was becoming more noticeable towards the end of the year.

No case of Puerperal Fever or Puerperal Pyrexia was notified during the year.

A small increase in the number of notifications of Tuberculosis is observed. It may be noted however, that most areas in England and Wales are experiencing an increase in Tuberculosis apparently due to factors arising out of the abnormal conditions of the War.

There were only two cases of Diphtheria (two carriers excepted) and no deaths.

May I again emphasize the importance of artificial immunisation and point out that although it may not always prevent diphtheria, it mitigates its severity and protects from death.

Evidence is accumulating to show that some such place as the sick bay will continue to be necessary for the welfare of the district particularly in view of the dearth of domestic help and the increasing problem of elderly people.

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J.H.C. Eglinton.

September, 1945.



## STREET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

### GRANGE SICK BAY.

To: THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE GRANGE SICK BAY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
OF THE STREET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1944.

#### PREAMBLE.

The Sick Bay was originally set up by the Street Urban District Council on behalf of the Ministry of Health in 1940, primarily for the admission and treatment of minor ailments amongst the evacuated children in Street. The original number of beds was 12, but this number proved to be totally inadequate, so the number was increased to its present complement of 38, 35 beds and 3 cots.

The scope of the sick bay has gradually become enlarged, viz. non evacuee children then adults being admitted, e.g. members of the National Fire Service, Adult Evacuees, suitable non-evacuees and so on.

Tentative plans were drawn up whereby the sick bay might have been made use of in the event of the district being cut off by invasion. Details may be seen in the Street War Book.

#### OUTSIDE LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

From its inception cases have been admitted from other local authorities, and this policy has, on the instruction of the Ministry of Health, now become general as regards other sick bays in the County. The Local Authority sending in non evacuee cases is primarily responsible for the cost of those cases.

#### PROCEDURE OF ADMISSION.

This has remained as heretofore, and as careful a scrutiny as possible has been made in order to ensure that no case of a notifiable infectious disease was admitted.

#### ILLNESS AMONGST THE STAFF.

A certain amount of illness amongst the staff has occurred during the year. Two auxiliary nurses were away each for six weeks. The night nurse was absent on three occasions for several weeks. This of course put an additional strain on the Matron and remaining staff.

#### CLOSURE OF THE SICK BAY.

It has again not been necessary to close during the year. This was an achievement as there was an epidemic of Whooping Cough in Street, and other epidemics in the County. I regard this as due in no small measure to the careful scrutiny of cases, and the fact that 'child visitors' were excluded from the sick bay.

#### NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

No case occurred in the sick bay during the year.

#### DEATHS.

No death occurred in the sick bay during the year.

#### ADMINISTRATION.

The Street Urban District Council (on behalf of the Ministry of Health) appoint an Executive Committee to administer the Sick Bay. The present constitution of this Committee is 7 members, consisting of 5 members of the Council and 2 co-opted ladies. The Medical Superintendent is appointed with the knowledge of the Local Medical War Committee, and the County Medical Officer of Health, who is always ready to assist by advice and help whenever necessary,







co-ordinates and supervises the work of all sick bays in the County.

AUTHORISED STAFF.

NURSING.

Matron, one Sister, both S.R.N. & S.C.M. qualified.  
One Assistant Nurse (night), Three Nursing  
Auxiliaries.

Domestic. One Cook, one kitchen help, one outside help (3  
hours daily).

THE YEAR'S ACTIVITIES.

Number of cases admitted during the year. Children 145  
Adults. 39

Total 184.

Boys	88	
Girls	<u>57</u>	145
Women	31	
Men	<u>8</u>	<u>39</u> <u>184</u>

Boys over 5 years of age  
or under 21

Girls 5 years of age or  
under 15    56

Boys 1 year of age or under 8  
Girls 1 year of age or " 1    9

(Last year 142 cases admitted.)

DETAILS OF ILLMENTS.

Scabies and Impetigo  
predominating, in 40  
different types of  
conditions.

(last year 29)

(STREET 12)

Scabies.	65
Injuries.	9
Debilitated.	6
Adenitis	4
Bronchitis	3
Enteritis	3
Asthma	2
Myocarditis	1
Vincent's	
Angina	1
Varicose ulcer	1
Chorea	
(cardiac)	1
Sciatica	1
Mental	1

(STREET 2)

Impetigo	22
Tinea	8
Encuresis	5
Tonsillitis	4
Parotitis	3
Pneumonia	2
Jaundice	2
Pyelitis	1
Cellulitis	1
Urticaria	1
Anaemia	1
Uterine	1
Burns	
(severe)	1

Scabies & Impetigo	8
Abdominal Appendix	2
Abcess	3
Influenza	4
Under observation	3
Eczema	3
Verucca (septic)	2
Otitis Media	5
Rhumatoid Arthritis	1
Post Maternity	1
Fractured Femur	1
Post Abdominal Operation	1
Haemorrhage (dental)	1
'Apparently' drowned.	1

DETAILS OF PLACES.

36 (last year 22)

STREET	73 GLASTONBURY	21 WELLS.	5 BRISTOL	2
Taunton	8 Axbridge	1 Walton	4 Shepton Mallet	5
Norton Fitzwarren	1 Long Sutton	1 Meare	4 Pyllc	1
Ilminster	2 Stogursey	1 Beltonsborough	2 Evercecech	2
Bridgwater	2 Cannington	1 West Pennard	3 Templecombe	1
Lshcott	1 Porlock	2 Sharpham Park	8 Oakhill	5
Sutton Mallett	3 Stoke St. Michael	5 Butleigh	3 Wincanton	1
Il Brewers	1 Galmonton	1 Wookey Hole	2	
Somerton	1 Yeovil	5 Westbury Mendipl		
Hartock	2			
Langport	2			



## SUMMARY.

It is a striking fact that a larger number of cases with a greater variety and number of conditions from a larger number of places have been admitted this year than last year and last year than the previous year.

There is an increase in the number of scabies and Impetigo admitted from the surrounding area, although a large decrease from Street itself (12 and 2 respectively).

There has also been an increase in the severity of the cases admitted, a number occurring in elderly people.

It is interesting to note that more boys were admitted than girls, and in the adult group more women than men.

It is instructive to note that out of 184 cases 119 came from within a radius of five miles from the sick bay.

It is becoming increasingly clear the important part the sick bay plays in the immediate area, and the necessity for it to continue. The problem of illness in elderly people remains, and the great difficulty of obtaining domestic help is ever present.

There has again been a very useful exchange of nursing personnel with other sick bays, and this has proved very valuable in the present shortage of nurses. Sister was 'lent' to a maternity unit in the County and auxiliary nurses were lent to other sick bays. The domestic side has again been very difficult, even more difficult than last year. The Matron and her staff have on many occasions had to carry out domestic duties, cooking, cleaning, waiting, etc. in addition to their nursing duties, and when this is taken into consideration with the added severity of the cases admitted, it has at times proved an almost unbearable strain, and the larger numbers admitted.

I therefore again pay tribute to the efficiency and devotion to duty of the Matron, who has been loyally supported by her staff Sister, together with the Nursing Staff.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

J.H.C.Eglinton.

Medical Superintendent.

September, 1945.

